

PRESS RELEASE

National Weather Service Forecast Office
Milwaukee/Sullivan, Wisconsin

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For Immediate Release
November 11, 2014

Editor's Note: The program's name is StormReady® (one word)

University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee/Innovative Weather Certified as **StormReady®**

In a brief ceremony at 2 PM CST, Thursday, November 13, 2014, the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee (UWM)/Innovative Weather will be certified as a *StormReady®* university. Two 2' x 2' informational signs and a certificate will be presented to university officials. This certification is valid for three years through March 4, 2017. UWM/Innovative Weather originally satisfied *StormReady®* criteria on March 4, 2014.

The media is invited to the public ceremony.

StormReady® is a national community preparedness program that uses a grassroots approach to help communities develop plans to handle all types of severe weather. In general, a community must possess a solid communication network, and provide verification of its multi-hazard emergency operations plan. Specifically, in order to become *StormReady®*, the community must:

- Establish a 24-hour warning point and emergency operations center;
- Have multiple methods to receive and disseminate severe weather warnings and information for their community;
- Have various methods to monitor weather conditions locally;
- Promote the importance of public readiness;
- Develop a formal hazardous weather action plan, including severe weather spotter training and drills.

Communities in Wisconsin that have been designated *StormReady®* include the cities of Lake Mills, Whitewater, Cedarburg, Waupaca, Belleville, Viroqua, Dousman, Hillsboro, Bayside and New Berlin. The counties of Lincoln, Oneida, St. Croix and Racine are *StormReady®* as well. The Green Bay Packers; Hortonville High School in Outagamie County; Weather Central, Inc./My Weather, LLC in Madison; VCPI in Milwaukee; Oxford Camp Freeland Leslie BSA; the Girl Scouts of the Northwestern Great Lakes in Green Bay; the Experimental Aircraft Association in Oshkosh, and NBC-15-WMTV in Madison are *StormReady®* Supporters. Several other Wisconsin cities and/or counties are currently working toward their *StormReady®* designation.

Nationally, as of November 10, 2014, there were there were **2263** *StormReady®* Sites in **49** states, Puerto Rico & Guam:

1050 Counties/**17** Parishes, **854** Communities

153 Universities, **16** Indian Nations, **84** Commercial Sites, **80** Military, **36** Government Sites

178 *TsunamiReady*® Sites in 10 states, Puerto Rico and Guam
392 *StormReady*® Supporters, 7 *TsunamiReady* Supporters

Here is a link that shows a map of these *StormReady*® sites (it does not include *StormReady* Supporters): <http://www.stormready.noaa.gov/communities.htm>

Please contact Dr. Clark Evans, Assistant Professor and Program Coordinator of the Atmospheric Science Program at UWM at a.clark.evans@gmail.com for details concerning UWM. Dr. Evans and his students spearheaded their *StormReady*® efforts, and worked closely with J.J. Wood, meteorologist at the Milwaukee/Sullivan, Wisconsin National Weather Service (NWS) Forecast Office James.Wood@noaa.gov.

The NWS would appreciate extensive news coverage of UWM's/Innovative Weather's *StormReady*® designation. This will increase the public's awareness of the program. If you have any questions about the NWS's *StormReady*® program, please contact J.J. Wood, Meteorologist, National Weather Service Milwaukee/Sullivan, Wisconsin, at: James.Wood@noaa.gov.